

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 26570 131127Z
ACTION SNM-05

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STATE FOR EA AND S/NM

E.O.11652: NA
TAGS: OVIP, SNAR, TH, US
SUBJ: INTERNATIONAL VISITOR GRANT; GENERAL PREM TINSULANON

1. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT DEPUTY INTERIOR MINISTER GENERAL PREM TINSULANON BE PROVIDED A TWO-WEEK INTERNATIONAL VISITOR GRANT BY S/NM TO VISIT WASHINGTON AND TO OBSERVE NARCOTICS RELATED ACTIVITIES IN OTHER AREAS. GENERAL PREM IS THE SENIOR CABINET-LEVEL THAI OFFICIAL WITH DIRECT NARCOTICS RESPONSIBILITIES AND IS A HIGHLY RESPECTED SENIOR MILITARY OFFICER, WHO HAS TAKEN A SERIOUS AND VERY USEFUL LEADERSHIP ROLE IN NARCOTICS MATTERS SINCE HIS APPOINTMENT IN NOVEMBER 1977.

2. DURING HIS WASHINGTON VISIT, WE WOULD RECOMMEND MEETINGS WITH NARCOTICS OFFICIALS, INCLUDING MS. FALCO, DEA DIRECTOR BENSINGER, AND SENIOR WHITE HOUSE OFFICERS, SUCH AS MR. O'KEEFE.

3. GENERAL PREM'S OTHER MAJOR RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDE REFUGEES, POLICE AND THE ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS RELATED TO THE UPCOMING NATIONAL ELECTIONS. WE WOULD THEREFORE
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REQUEST ALSO THAT HE MEET WITH DEPUTY SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE, OR OTHER SENIOR EA OFFICERS. BECAUSE OF HIS RANK AND IMPORTANCE, WE WOULD ALSO URGE THAT MS. FALCO OR EA SENIOR OFFICIAL HOST LUNCHEON OR DINNER FOR THE GENERAL. THE GENERAL HAS ALSO INDICATED AN INTEREST IN RECEIVING BRIEFINGS AT THE PENTAGON AND PARTICULARLY THE FBI DURING THE WASHINGTON

PORTION OF HIS VISIT, WHICH WE ASSUME WOULD TAKE UP THE FIRST WEEK.

4. FOR THE SECOND WEEK OF VISIT, WE BELIEVE GENERAL PREM SHOULD HAVE A BROAD-GAUGED PROGRAM OUTSIDE WASHINGTON, WITH EMPHASIS ON NARCOTICS-RELATED FUNCTIONS. HE HAS EXPRESSED INTEREST IN VISITING A U.S. MILITARY INSTALLATION, PREFERABLY AN ARMY BASE.

5. GENERAL PREM HAS INDICATED THAT HE WOULD BE ABLE TO VISIT THE U.S. DURING THE LAST TWO WEEKS IN OCTOBER AND WE WOULD LIKE TO BE ABLE TO CONFIRM TO HIM BY SEPTEMBER 15 THAT THIS WOULD BE POSSIBLE. WE WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S INITIAL VIEWS ON FEASIBILITY OF SCHEDULE OUTLINED ABOVE.

6. THE GENERAL STATED THAT HE WOULD TRAVEL WITH TWO OTHER THAI INTERIOR MINISTRY OFFICIALS. ALTHOUGH HE SPEAKS AND UNDERSTANDS SOME ENGLISH, HE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO FULLY COMPREHEND EXTENSIVE BRIEFINGS AND ONE OF HIS ACCOMPANYING OFFICIALS WOULD SERVE PRIMARILY AS INTERPRETER. ABRAMOWITZ

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